



Testimony of the CT Association of Public School Superintendents Before the Public Health Committee

IN SUPPORT OF: HB 6891

The CT Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) supports legislation that would result in Superintendents of Schools having access to birth records.

As you know, there is growing interest in school systems throughout CT to engage children before they are legally obligated to begin schooling at the age of five. This interest is born of the realization that if children can be afforded opportunities to enhance their ability to learn before the children begin formal schooling they will be more successful in their formal learning experiences.

In order for school districts to make the parents of every child whom the district will eventually serve aware of these opportunities, districts need to know whom to contact. Birth records provide this information. Yet, right now, neither superintendents of schools nor any other school system personnel are listed in Section 7-51 of state statutes as among those who can access birth records for the communities that are served by the districts that superintendents lead.

The current language in the bill would amend that by allowing “superintendent of schools for the school district in which such person is enrolled.” CAPSS would suggest that it not only be for children who are enrolled but also for those who are seeking to reside in the district and seeks to enroll. This is an important distinction in that young children may not be considered technically enrolled in school. While this is a fine point

CAPSS thinks this minor clarification will avoid misinterpretation in the future.

Therefore, CAPSS is in full support of this change to legislation.